



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

[GX23WC00GJNV331; OMB Control Number 1028-0106]

Agency Information Collection Activities: USGS Ashfall Report

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Information Collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is proposing to renew an information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before

[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on this information collection request (ICR) by mail to U.S. Geological Survey, Information Collections Officer, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 159, Reston, VA 20192; or by email to gs-info_collections@usgs.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 1028-0106 in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Kristi Wallace by email at kwallace@usgs.gov, or by telephone at 907-786-7109. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the PRA, 44 U.S.C.

3501 *et seq.* and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), all information collections require approval. We may not conduct or sponsor, nor are you required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

- (1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- (2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) How the agency might minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information (PII) in your comment, you should be

aware that your entire comment—including your PII—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your PII from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Abstract:

The USGS provides notifications and warnings to the public of volcanic activity in the U.S. in order to reduce the loss of life and property and to mitigate the economic and societal impacts. Ash fallout to the ground can pose significant disruption and damage to buildings, transportation, water and wastewater, power supply, communications equipment, agriculture, and primary production leading to potentially substantial societal impacts and costs, even at thicknesses of only a few millimeters or inches. Additionally, fine grained ash, when ingested, can cause health impacts to humans and animals. The USGS will use reports entered by respondents in real time of ashfall in their local area to correct or refine ashfall forecasts as the ash cloud moves downwind. Retrospectively, these reports will enable the USGS to improve their ashfall models and further their research into eruptive processes.

This project is a database module and web interface allowing the public and Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) staff to enter reports of ashfall in their local area in real time and retrospectively following an eruptive event. Users browsing the AVO web site during eruptions will be directed towards a web form allowing them to fill in ashfall information and submit the information to AVO.

Compiled ashfall reports are available in real-time to AVO staff through the AVO internal website. A pre-formatted summary report or table that distills information received online will show ashfall reports in chronological order with key fields including (1) date and time of ashfall, (2) location, (3) positive or negative ashfall (4) name of observer, and (5) contact information which is easily viewable

internally on the report so that calls for clarification can be made by AVO staff

quickly and Operations room staff can visualize ashfall information quickly.

Ashfall report data will also be displayed on a dynamic map interface and show

positive (yes ash) and negative (no ash) ashfall reports by location. Ashfall

reports (icons) will be publicly displayed for a period of 24 hours and shaded

differently as they age so that the age of reports is obvious.

The ashfall report database will help AVO track eruption clouds and associated

fallout downwind. These reports from the public will also give scientists a more

complete record of the amount, duration, and other conditions of ashfall. Getting

first-hand accounts of ashfall will support ashfall model development and

interpretation of satellite imagery. AVO scientists will – as time allows - be able to

contact the individuals using their entered contact information for clarification and

details. Knowing the locations from which ashfall reports have been filed will

improve ashfall warning messages, AVO Volcanic Activity Notifications, and

make fieldwork more efficient. AVO staff will be able to condense and summarize

the various ashfall reports and forward that information on to emergency

management agencies and the wider public. The online form will also free up

resources during an eruption, a time that exceedingly busy for the USGS as most

individuals currently phone AVO with their reports.

Title of Collection: USGS Ashfall Report

OMB Control Number: 1028-0106

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: General Public, local governments, and emergency managers

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 250

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 250

Estimated Completion Time per Response: 5 minutes

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 21 hours.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion, after each ashfall event.

Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: We have not identified any “non-hour cost” burdens associated with this collection of information.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, nor is a person required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq*).

Christina Neal,

Center Director,

Volcano Science Center,

U.S. Geological Survey.